DA'WAH, TA'LIM & TAZKIYAH

THREE TASKS OF RASULULLAH ﷺ



By:

Shaykhul Hadith Maulana Fadhlur Rahman Azmi

(دامت بركاتهم)

DA'WAH, TA'LÎM AND TAZKIYAH

THE THREE TASKS OF RASÛLULLÂH ﷺ

Tafsîr of the Âyah

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللّٰهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيْهِمْ رَسُوْلاً مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُوْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَ يُزَكِّيْهِمْ وَ يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَ الْحِكْمَةَ ج وَ إِنْ كَانُوْا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِىْ ضَلَالٍ مُبِيْنٍ ۞ (آل عمران : ١٦٤)

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حامدًا و مصليًا و مسلّمًا

Introduction

Allâh ﷻ has made *Nabî* ﷺ such a role model, that the person who is closest to him will be the most beloved in the eyes of *Allâh* ﷻ.

The booklet before you is an introduction to three tasks of *Nabî* ﷺ which *Allâh* ﷻ ordained upon him as his responsibilities in the Noble *Qur'ân*.

The first responsibility of the *Nabî* ﷺ was to recite the verses of the *Qur'ân* to the Ummah. This is the propagation of *Dîn*. The second was to purify the souls of the believers. This is *Tazkiyah*. The third responsibility was to teach the Ummah the *Qur'ân* and *Al-Hikmah*.

In this booklet these tasks have been explained in some detail in the light of the commentaries of reliable and respected *Ulamâ*.

It is hoped that by means of this work, *Allâh* ﷻ blesses us with the correct understanding of these responsibilities and the ability to fulfil the rights of these responsibilities. These blessings will enable us to emulate *Nabî* ﷺ and to attain perfection by adhering to his *Sunnah* so that we attain the proximity of Almighty Allâh ﷻ.

Every believer, together with propagating *Dîn* and encouraging others to do so, should also be concerned about his own spiritual reformation as well as that of others. It is essential that a person adorns his own life with good actions by studying the knowledge of the Qur'ân and the Sunnah and one should encourage others to do the same.

May Allâh ﷻ grant us the divine ability to take as much part as possible in these three domains and may He make us the the firm adherents and devotees to every *Sunnah* of *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ, hence granting us love and acceptance. Âmîn

(Shaykh) Fadhlur Rahman Azami

The Responsibilities of the Ambiyâ[1] عليهم السلام

Allâh ﷻ says:

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللهُ عَلَى الْمُؤمِنِيْنَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيْهِمْ رَسُوْلاً مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُوْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِه وَ يُزَكِّيْهِمْ
وَ يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَ الْحِكْمَةَ ج وَ إِنْ كَانُوْا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِىْ ضَلَالٍ مُّبِيْنٍ ۝ (آل عمران : ١٦٤)

Allâh ﷻ *has shown great kindness to the believers, when He sent a Messenger to them from among themselves to recite His Signs to them and purify them and teach them the Book and Wisdom, before that they were clearly misguided.*[2]

This theme is also mentioned in *Sûrah Jumu'ah*:

هُوَ الَّذِىْ بَعَثَ فِى الْأُمِّيِّنَ رَسُوْلاً مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُوْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِه وَ يُزَكِّيْهِمْ وَ يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ
وَ الْحِكْمَةَ ج وَ إِنْ كَانُوْا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِىْ ضَلَالٍ مُّبِيْنٍ ۝ (الجمعة : ٢)

It is He who raised among the unlettered people a Messenger from among them to recite His verses to them, purify them and teach them the Book and Wisdom, before that they were clearly misguided.[3]

Allâmah Âlûsi[4] رحمه الله mentions in *Rûhul Ma'ânî* (1:386) the *Tafsîr* (commentary) of the following *Âyah*[5]*:*

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[1]Hereunder, the author presents the verses dealing with the subject of discussion. These verses have almost identical words and interpretations, although the sequence of words in one of them is slightly different.

[2]*Sûrah Al 'Imrân*, Verse 164

[3]*Sûrah Jumu'ah*, Verse 2

[4] *Allâmah Abul Fadhl Shihâbud Dîn As-Sayyid Mahmûd Al-Alûsi* رحمه الله, a great Commentator of the *Qur'ân* and *Muftî* of Baghdad, passed away in 1270 A.H.

[5] The exegesis of this particular verse has been brought; although the explanation applies to all the aforementioned verses.

رَبَّنَا وَابْعَثْ فِيْهِمْ رَسُوْلاً مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُوْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ وَ يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَ الْحِكْمَةَ وَ يُزَكِّيْهِمْ ؕ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيْزُ الْحَكِيْمُ ۝ (البقرة:١٢٨)

Our Lord! Raise up among them a Messenger from them to recite Your Signs to them, to teach them the Book and Wisdom and to purify them.[6] *(2:128)*

﴿يَتْلُوْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ﴾

﴾He will recite to them Your Signs﴿

The Messenger will recite to them what is revealed upon him of the Signs which point towards the Oneness of Allâh, Prophethood and the Hereafter.

Some scholars have interpreted the same section of the verse in the following manner:

The Messenger will inform them of the people before him and those who will come after him until the Day of Judgement.

﴿يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ﴾

﴾He will teach them the Book﴿

The Messenger will teach them the book by explaining to them its words, the manner of its recitation and by enlightening them of its apparent and hidden meanings.

﴿والحــــكْمَةَ﴾

﴾*Al-Hikmah*﴿

[Here *Allâmah Âlûsi* رحمة الله عليه has given four different explanations for the word *Al-Hikmah* (Wisdom)]

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[6] *Sûrah Baqarah* Verse 128

The placing of objects where they belong[7].

1. *Something that extinguishes the flame of Hubbud Dunyâ*[8] *from the hearts (of the Believers).*
2. *The explanation and understanding of Dîn*
3. *The Sunnah of the Messenger ﷺ which is a manifestation of the Book.*

﴿وَ يُزَكِّيهِمْ﴾

﴾And will purify them﴿

The Messenger will cleanse them of the filth of polytheism, the impurity of doubt and the pollution of sins.

﴿وَ يُزَكِّيهِمْ﴾ *alludes to At-Takhliyah whilst* ﴿وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ﴾ *to At-Tahliyah.*[9]

Perhaps the reason for At-Tahliyah being mentioned before At-Takhliyah in this verse is to show its importance and rank over At-Takhliyah[10]. [*Rûhul Ma'ânî* Volume 1, Page 387]

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[7] The actual text from the commentary is وضع الأشياء مواضعها and is not restricted to objects. It refers to both the animate and inanimate. i.e. treat people and objects according to their nature.

[8] the adoration of the worldly life

[9] *At-Takhliyah* literally means 'to empty' and *At-Tahliyah* means 'to adorn or to beautify'. Here these words are used to explain two stages of *Tazkiyah* (purification). *At-Takhliyah* here refers to the stage when a person rids his soul and mind from the impurity and filth of polytheism and doubt. *At-Tahliyah* refers to adorning that same soul and mind with the teachings and actions of *Islâm*.

[10] This text is quite technical. Here the commentator is trying to answer a question which arises with regards to the sequence of purification and education. Understand this with a simple example. If a person wants to fill a dirty glass with pure milk, he has to first clean the glass and then pour the milk. It doesn't make any sense if the person pours the milk first. In the same way purification is a means of ridding the soul and mind of impurities and education is a means of adorning the soul and mind, so the sequence of the terms should be the other way round, i.e. *At-Takhliyah* should precede *At-Tahliyah*. The commentator explains this sequence. He says that *At-Tahliyah* is mentioned first due to it being nobler than *At-Takhliyah*. (Allâh ﷻ knows best.)

The previously mentioned verses of both *Sûrah Jumu'ah* [62:2] and *Sûrah Âl 'Imrân* [3:164] have identical words. The only difference is the sequence; therefore the interpretation is similar.

Allâh ﷻ accepted the *Du'â* of *Ibrâhim* عليه السلام and *Ismâ'îl* عليه السلام and after a designated time, sent a Messenger who possessed these three attributes. *Allâh* ﷻ has mentioned these attributes of this Messenger ﷺ in the *Noble Qur'ân*:

(1) In *Sûrah Baqarah* verse 151
(2) Sûrah *Âl 'Imran*, Verse 164
(3) And in *Sûrah Jumu'ah*, Verse 2

In the aforementioned verses[11], the order of the attributes are the same, i.e. firstly, recitation of the *Âyât (verses)* is mentioned, then *Tazkiyah* (Purification) and lastly, *Ta'lím* (teaching) of the Book and *Al-Hikmah.*

In the verse where the *Du'â*[12] of *Ibrâhim* عليه السلام is mentioned [*Sûrah Baqarah*:128] the sequence changes slightly. In this *Âyah,* recitation of the *Âyât* is mentioned *first*, then *Ta'lîm* of the Book and *Al-Hikmah* and lastly, *Tazkiyah*[13].

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[11] These verses have already been mentioned and translated on page 3.

[12] Supplication or prayer.

[13] For the rest of the booklet, three terms will be used over and again. Each term refers to a particular part of the verse.

1. Tilawah (recitation) or Da'wah (propagation) refers to ﴿يَتْلُوْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ﴾
2. Tazkiyah (purification) refers to ﴿وَ يُزَكِّيهِمْ﴾
3. Ta'lîm (teaching/education) refers to ﴿يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَ الْحِكْمَةَ﴾

Commentary on These Three Duties

The Commentary of Maulana Ashraf 'Ali Thanwi[14] رحمة الله عليه

Allâmah Âlûsi رحمة الله عليه states that the first duty of recitation means that Rasûlullah ﷺ should recite and propagate the verses of Tauhîd and Risâlah and other important matters (such as the hereafter) to the Sahâbah رضي الله عنهم.

Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanwi رحمة الله عليه has mentioned in *Bayânul Qur'ân* after the *Tafsîr* of *Sûrah Âl-'Imrân* in *Masâ'ilus Sulûk*[15]:

﴿يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَ الْحِكْمَةَ﴾

In these verses there is firstly a confirmation of *'Ilmul Asrâr*[16] and of *Turuqus Sulûk*[17]. This has been explained in *Rûhul Ma'ânî*. It states that recitation refers to propogating the verses of *Tauhîd* and *Risâlah* (Prophethood). *Tazkiyah* (Purification) involves calling people towards the *Kalima Tauheed* لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله which in itself is an expression of Tauhîd and Risâlah (as this is a means of purification from polytheism). 'Teaching the Book' refers to teaching the words of the Noble Qur'ân, and teaching *Al-Hikmah* refers to explaining the hidden meanings of the Noble Qur'ân.

Tilâwah is mentioned first as this is the introduction. *Tazkiyah* is mentioned next as purity [from polytheism etc.] is the first characteristic a Believer is adorned with. *Ta'lîm* follows next which is one's need after Imân. The sequence of the last two attributes shows that *At-Takhliyah* (of which *Tazkiyah* is a component) precedes *At-Tahliyah* (of which *Ta'lîm* is a component). Now the question arises as to why *At-Tahliyah* is mentioned before *At-Takhliyah* in *Sûrah Baqarah*,

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[14] *Hakîmul Ummah Maulanâ Ashraf 'Alî Thanwi*, great scholar from India. Compiled over 1000 books including *Behishti Zewar*. Passed away in 1362 A.H.

[15] *Masâ'ilus Sulûk:* This is a section devoted to discuss issues relating to the method of attaining the recognition of the Almighty. The Author brings such a section after every *Sûrah*.

[16] Knowledge not attained by means of a mortal being.

[17] Paths to the recognition of the Almighty.

this is perhaps to highlight the rank of *At-Tahliyah* above *At-Takhliyah*. [*Rûhul Ma'ânî*]

Maulanâ Ashraf 'Alî Thanwi رحمة الله عليه says further:

The changing of the sequence in the verses shows that *At-Tahliyah* can precede *At-Takhliyah* if the circumstances demand that. According to the Sufis both are practiced upon[18]. [*Bayânul Qur'ân volume 1, page 292*]

An Extract from the Lecture of Maulânâ Inâmul Hasan[19] رحمة الله عليه

Hadhratjî Maulânâ In'âmul Hasan رحمة الله عليه once gave a lecture to the *Ulamâ* regarding *Da'wah*, *Tazkiyah* and *Ta'lîm* during an *Ijtimâ'* held in *Chandpûr* which is in the province of *Bajnûr*, on the 15th *Shabân* 1395 AH (23rd August 1975). This is an extract from his lecture;

Allâh ﷻ has said:

هُوَ الَّذِىْ بَعَثَ فِى الْأُمِّيِّنَ رَسُوْلاً مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُوْ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِه وَ يُزَكِّيْهِمْ وَ يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَ الْحِكْمَةَ ج

Allâh ﷻ sent *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ with three duties;
(1) *Da'wah*
(2) *Tazkiyah* and
(3) *Ta'lîm.*

Da'wah was the primary duty of the Messenger as the existence of the other two depends on it. During the era of *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ and the *Sahâbah* رضي الله عنهم, it was *Da'wah* that gave life to *Tazkiyah* and *Ta'lîm*. *Da'wah*

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[18] According to the Sufis one's Tazkiyah can occur by either cleansing the soul first and then adorning it with good deeds i.e. *At-Takhliyah* then *At-Tahliyah*. And in certain circumstances Tazkiyah can occur by firstly carrying out good deeds and then cleansing the soul i.e. *At-Tahliyah* then *At-Takhliyah*. Here *Maulanâ Ashraf 'Alî Thanwi* mentions that the second process of Tazkiyah is also established from the Qur'an.

[19] *Maulânâ Inâmul Hasan* رحمة الله عليه was the Amir of the Tablighi effort. An effort which has helped revive the effort of commanding towards good and forbidding evil.

is essential in this day and age for the very same reason. *(Da'wat ki Basirat Aur Us ka Fahm wa Idraak, Pages 27 and 28, Maulana Muhammad Shahed Saheb)*

The First Duty of the Ambiyâ عليهم السلام was Da'wah

From the aforementioned works of *Allâmah Âlûsi*, *Maulânâ Thânwi* and *Maulânâ Inâmul Hasan* رحمة الله عليه, it is evident that the first duty of *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ was *Da'wah*. By reciting the verses of the *Noble Qur'ân* to the *Sahâbah* رضي الله عنهم, *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ called them towards the oneness of *Allâh* عزوجل and *Islâm*. The *Sahâbah*[20] رضي الله عنهم were native Arabs and therefore easily understood the verses of *Tauhîd*, *Risâlah* and the *Âkhira* (Hereafter).

It was by means of this *Da'wah* that their hearts were cleansed from the impurity of disbelief and polytheism, purified from doubt and uncertainty. Furthermore, this *Da'wah* purified them of all their past habits and sins. This is *Tazkiyah,* the second duty of the Messenger ﷺ. Finally, by studying the literal and intricate meanings of the *Noble Qur'ân* together with the blessed sayings of *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ, the *Sahâbah* رضي الله عنهم were adorned with the complete *Shari'ah* and the beauty of the *Sunnah*. As a result, the *Sahâbah* رضي الله عنهم became beautified with all kinds of wonderful attributes and were free from all evil traits.

Ta'lim of the Book entails understanding the literal meanings of the words of the *Qur'ân* and it entails learning how to recite it correctly. *Ta'lim* of *Al-Hikmah* entails understanding the laws mentioned in its verses, its intricate meanings and wisdoms. This is apparent from the commentary of *Allâmah Âlûsi* رحمة الله عليه.

The Commentary of Allâmah Shabbir Ahmad Uthmâni رحمة الله عليه [21]

Allâmah Shabbir Ahmad Uthmâni رحمة الله عليه commentated on the verse of *Âl-'Imrân* as follows:

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[20] The Companions of the Messenger ﷺ

[21] *Allâmah Shabbir Uthmâni* رحمة الله عليه was a scholar of great status. Amongst his achievements was the completion of *Tafsîr Uthmâni*, a great exegesis of the *Noble Qur'ân* and initiating of a commentary on *Sahîh Muslim* (this was later completed by *Muftî Taqî Uthmâni*).

To summarise this verse four aspects from the life of the Messenger ﷺ have been mentioned:

(1) **Recitation of the verses** (to the *Sahâbah*). Due to Arabic being the mother tongue of the *Sahâbah*, they understood the literal meanings and acted upon the verses.

(2) **Purification of the souls.** (To rid the soul from all types of egoism, polytheism and sins.[22])

(3) **Teaching the Book** (explaining the intricate meanings of the *Noble Qur'ân*). The need for such explaining arose when doubts occurred in the minds of the *Sahâbah* due to them relying on the common usage of certain words. *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ would thereafter explain the true meaning and context of the verse. By means of which the doubts of his companions would be cleared.

To cite an example of the above scenario *Allâh* Ta'ala says in *Sûrah An'âm*:[23]

الَّذِيْنَ آمَنُوْا وَ لَمْ يَلْبَسُوْا إِيْمَانَهُمْ بِظُلْمٍ ...

There were a few verses which needed the clarification of the Messenger ﷺ.

(4) **Teaching *Al-Hikmah*** (To teach the deeper meanings of *Al-Hikmah*) and to explain the hidden meanings and intricacies and inform the *Sahâbah* of the deep wisdoms of *Shari'ah*. This was either done explicitly or implicitly. Through the grace of the Almighty and His help that a naive nation, who for centuries were in gross ignorance and were drowning in clear misguidance were saved. Within a few years, by means of the teaching and company of *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ they became guides and teachers for the entire humanity. For the abovementioned reasons it is crucial that they recognise this great bounty and never even forgetfully sadden the heart of the Messenger ﷺ. *(Fawâid Shabbiriyyah - Sûrah Âl-'Imrân)*

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[22] refers to exerting oneself in the purification of souls.

[23] This is *Surâh An'âm* : 82: "Those who believe and obscure not their belief by wrongdoing, theirs is safety; and they are rightly guided."
The Companions understood wrongdoing to refer to general sins which meant that even the smallest of sins would deny a believer from safety and would deprive a person from being rightly guided. This caused them to be greatly perturbed. Rasulullah later explained to them that in this verse wrongdoing refers to ascribing partners with Allah and not general sins. This explanation removed their anxiety.

Other Verses and Ahâdith explaining the Missions of the Ambiyâ

In all the aforementioned verses of the *Noble Qur'ân*, the first duty of the Messenger ﷺ is to propagate by means of reciting the verses of the *Noble Qur'ân*.

Imâm Bukhâri رحمه الله mentions in his *Al-Jami'*[24], that the first revelation consisted of the first five verses of *Sûrah 'Alaq (Iqra')*. These verses are an introduction to *Allâh* ﷻ. They mention that He is the Creator. They explain that *Allâh* ﷻ created man from a clot of blood, He is the true Cherisher of man and that *Allâh* ﷻ provides the creations' necessities and helps them reach their decreed potential. He is most Kind, He taught man by means of the Pen and taught Man what he knew not. Read in the name of that Lord!

After the first revelation, a lengthy intermission prevailed. Thereafter, the verses of *Sûrah Muddathir* were revealed. It was in this *Sûrah*[25] that *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ received the command of *Da'wah*.

قُمْ فَأَنْذِرْ ۝ وَ رَبَّكَ فَكَبِّرْ ۝

Stand up and warn the people, and express the greatness of your Cherisher.

In other words, now inform others of the Rabb you have recognised.

After this revelation, the message from Allâh came continuously for ten to twelve years. During these years, revelation was confined to Tauhîd, Prophethood and the Hereafter. *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ used to propagate these verses to the people by reciting them.

فَذَكِّرْ بِالْقُرْآنِ مَنْ يَّخَافُ وَعِيْدِ ۝

By reciting the verses of the *Noble Qur'ân*, he would reinforce the faith of the people, purify their hearts from the impurities of doubt and

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[24] Refering to a *Hadîth* of *Bukhârî*.

[25] *Sûrah Muddathir Verse 3*

polytheism, cleansing their hearts of the false beliefs of the polytheists and the People of the Book. [*Rûhul Ma'ânî* 4:114]

After this period of ten to twelve years, when the *Ahkâm* (commands of Salâh, Saum etc) were revealed, the details of these *Ahkâm* were explained to the *Sahâbah* ﷺ and were practically demonstrated to them. As the verses were revealed, their words, meanings, purposes, intricacies and wisdoms were explained to the *Sahâbah* ﷺ. In this manner, their hearts and minds were adorned with the knowledge and understanding of *Dîn*.

One stage of *Tazkiyah* was that which was achieved only through listening to the verses of the *Noble Qur'ân* being recited upon them and by means of propagation. Through this method of *Tazkiyah*, they achieved:

- the conviction of the attributes of *Allâh*.
- the certainty that success lies only in the *Sunnah* of *Rasûlullâh* ﷺ.
- the true belief and reality of the Hereafter,
- faith in the existence of *Jannah* and *Jahannam,*
- the belief that none other than the Almighty was responsible for every gain and every setback,
- the knowledge that only the Almighty gave life and took it away,
- the understanding that true life was the life after death,
- the realization that this world was merely a temporary abode,
- purity from the uncertainty and polytheism and from the false beliefs of the people of the past.

By virtue of these attributes the *Sahâbah* ﷺ overcame and endured mountains of calamities and remained steadfast.

The *Sahâbah* were elevated to another stage of *Tazkiyyah* after the revelation of *Ahkâm* pertaining to refraining from sin.

وَ ذَرُوْا ظَاهِرَ الْاِثْمِ وَ بَاطِنَه

Refrain from both apparent and inconspicuous sins.[26]

[26] Sûrah An'âm : 120

The *Sahâbah* ﷺ immediately complied when the orders came from *Allâh* ﷻ to refrain from malice, enmity, miserliness, lethargy, arrogance and other maladies of the heart. Likewise, when the prohibitions of adultery, theft, alcoholism, false accusation, backbiting, harbouring ill-thoughts, evil glances and other sins were revealed, the *Sahâbah* ﷺ did not hesitate to comply. When the *Sahâbah* ﷺ were prohibited from abstaining from good deeds, they complied to this and were purified even further. This final stage of not abstaining from good deeds is the highest level of *Tazkiyah*.

If we take this meaning of *Tazkiyah* from the supplication of *Ibrâhim* ﷺ (2:128), then the point made by *Allâmah Âlûsi* رحمه الله (below) with regards to the sequence of *Ta'lîm* and *Tazkiyah* will be understood and held in high regard.

Allâmah Âlûsi رحمه الله says in the *Tafsîr* of *Sûrah Baqarah,* verse 151:

Allâh ﷻ *placed Tazkiyah before Ta'lím in this verse (2:151) and in the supplication of Ibrâhim (2:128) after Ta'lím to show that in both places the intended meaning is different. For both sequences there is an explanation. (Rûhul Ma'ânî Volume 2 Page 128)*

Where *Tazkiyah* is mentioned before *Ta'lîm* the first meaning of *Tazkiyah* is intended i.e. purification from the impurities of doubt and polytheism from the false beliefs of the Polytheists and the People of the Book. Where *Ta'lîm* succeeds *Tazkiyah* the second stage of *Tazkiyah* is intended i.e. conviction in the attributes of *Allâh* and the Hereafter etc.

From this, we learn that in both places *Tazkiyah* has different implications and there is an explanation for its position in both verses.

Allâmah Âlûsi رحمه الله explains in Volume 2 page 18

﴿يُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ و الحِكْمَةَ﴾

Ibrâhim ﷺ *placed Tazkiyah after Ta'lîm referring to the higher stage of Tazkiyah and this stage can only be attained after Ta'lîm of the Book and Al Hikmah. The remaining verses from the various Sûrahs refer to the lower stage of Tazkiyah, i.e. purification from polytheism etc. It is for this reason that Tazkiyah was mentioned before Ta'lîm in those*

verses, because Ta'lîm of the Book and Al-Hikmah can not be achieved without this purification. Disbelief would be an obstacle in this Ta'lîm. [27]

Conclusion

Further on *Allâmah Âlûsi* brings a few other interpretations and then concludes as follows:

The most that can be said about this is: Since Ta'lîm removed uncertainty and all types of evil from the lives of the Sahâbah ﷺ it was a means of purification for them. So this sequence [Ta'lîm before Tazkiyah] shows that the action which leads to the consequence is brought to represent the consequence. Like the example of an archer and death in the technicalities of the Arabs when they say: "He shot him, thus killed him." Understand like so! [28]

It is for this reason that in the *Tafsîr* of Surah Baqarah verse 151, *Allâmah Âlûsi* holds *Tazkiyah* to mean the negation of doubt and polytheism or the falsification of the beliefs of the polytheists and beliefs of the People of the Book.

However, in his *Tafsîr* of (2:128), he has decided to combine both stages of *Tazkiyah*:

﴿وَ يُزَكِّيهِمْ﴾

He will purify them from the impurities of polytheism, the filth of uncertainty and the stains of sin [29].

Here *Allâh* Ta'ala mentions one additional explanation of purification viz. purity from the stains of sin.

Glory be to Allâh, What an excellent explanation!

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[27] *Rûhul Ma'ânî Volume 2, Page 18*

[28] In the Arabic language, when a person says, "He shot him, thus killed him" shooting is metaphorically associated with killing, whereas shooting does not always necessitate killing. In the like manner since the eradication of uncertainty and sin is associated with *Ta'lîm*, here it is mentioned that it does eradicate the above evils.

[29] *Rûhul Ma'ânî* Volume 1, Page 387

Final Note

From the excellent commentary of these verses, we learn that a perfect adherent to the Sunnah is that person who as well as giving Da'wah, is also devoted to 'Ilm[30] and is involved in the *Tazkiyah* of himself and others.

Students of *Dîn* and *Ulamâ* should pay special attention to this. We should continue taking part in both the efforts of *Da'wah* and *Tazkiyah*. Ideally we should fulfil the rights of all three activities (*Da'wah*, *Ta'lîm* and *Tazkiyah*). *Shari'ah* promotes accumulation (of all these responsibilities) and does not encourage the distribution (of these responsibilities).[31]

May *Allâh* ﷻ grant us the ability to bring these attributes into our lives!

و صلى الله على النبي الامي   و الحمد لله اولا و آخرا

(Shaykh) Fadhlur Rahman Azami
15th Jumadal Ula 1426 AH
22nd June 2005

تمت

[30] This refers to Islamic Knowledge

[31] Here the Shaykh concludes by saying that Shari'ah encourages that everyone should try to take part in all the responsibilities of the Messenger ﷺ. Shari'ah does not teach us to allocate the different responsibilities on different individuals or upon particular groups.

DA'WAH, TA'LIM & TAZKIYAH

THREE TASKS OF RASULULLAH ﷺ

Humanity wallowed in the suffocating darkness of ignorance and injustice. Murder, tribal war and widespread decadence became the order of the day. The revealed scriptures had been distorted and man yearned for divine light. Mankind fell headlong into utter annihilation.

At this critical stage, hope appeared in the scorching deserts of Arabia. Muhammad, the Messenger of Allâh ﷺ, was chosen to guide man to his Creator, illuminate his heart, purify his soul and expound the boundless verses of the Majestic Qur'ân. In order to achieve these objectives, the Messenger had three tasks before him: Da'wah, Ta'lîm and Tazkiyah.

This booket investigates these prerogatives and outlines its key points in the light of Qur'ân, Hadîth, extensive references to great works of Qur'an commentary and notes of the greatest scholars of this era.

Shaykh Maulânâ Fadhlur Rahmân Azami has mastered and lectured upon many Islamic sciences: the seven modes of Qur'ân recital; intricate works of logic; complex books on the Arabic language; to name a few. Currently, he holds the 'Shaykhul Hadîth' post in Madrasah Arabia Islamia, Azaadville, South Africa. He is also a prominent scholar in the field of Hadîth analysis. He has been teaching the canonical works of Hadîth: Sahîh al-Bukhârî, Sahîh Muslim, etc., for the past two decades. In his free time, he travels all over the world, calling the people to the oneness of Allah and the way of His Messenger ﷺ.

"A man of this calibre is scarce, scarce, scarce!"
Shaykh Muhammad Zuhayr Ibn Nasir An-Nasir
Prominent scholar of Hadîth, Madînah

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